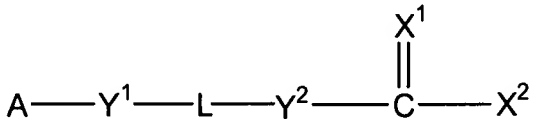
## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. **(Currently amended)** A method of inhibiting histone deacetylation activity in cells comprising contacting the cells with an effective amount of a compound of formula (I), thereby treating one or more disorders mediated by histone deacetylase; said compound having the following formula:



(I)

wherein

A is a cyclic moiety selected from the group consisting of ~~$C_{3-14}$ cycloalkyl, 3-14 membered heterocycloalkyl, $C_{4-14}$ cycloalkenyl, 3-8 membered heterocycloalkenyl,~~ aryl, or heteroaryl; the cyclic moiety being optionally substituted with alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, ~~hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonylamino, aminosulfonyl, or alkylsulfonyl; or A is a saturated branched $C_{3-12}$ hydrocarbon chain or an unsaturated branched $C_{3-12}$ hydrocarbon chain optionally interrupted by -O-, -S-, -N($R^a$)-, -C(O)-, -N($R^a$)-$SO_2$-, -$SO_2$-N($R^a$)-, -N($R^a$)-C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)-N($R^a$)-, -N($R^a$)-C(O)-N($R^b$)-, -O-C(O)-, -C(O)-O-, -O-$SO_2$-, -$SO_2$-O-, or -O-C(O)-O-, where each of $R^a$ and $R^b$, independently, is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, or haloalkyl; each of the saturated and the unsaturated branched hydrocarbon chain being optionally substituted with alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkyloxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonylamino, aminosulfonyl, or alkylsulfonyl~~;

each of $Y^1$ and $Y^2$, independently, is ~~-$CH_2$-, -O-, -S-, -N($R^e$)-, -N($R^e$)-C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)-N($R^e$)-, -N($R^e$)-C(O)-N($R^d$)-, -O-C(O)-O-, or~~ a bond; ~~each of $R^e$ and $R^d$, independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, or haloalkyl;~~

L is a straight $C_{2-12}$ hydrocarbon chain containing at least one double bond, at least one triple bond, or at least one double bond and one triple bond; said hydrocarbon chain being

optionally substituted with $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{2-4}$ alkenyl, $C_{2-4}$ alkynyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, hydroxyl, halo, amino, nitro, cyano, $C_{3-5}$ cycloalkyl, 3-5 membered heterocycloalkyl, monocyclic aryl, 5-6 membered heteroaryl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylcarbonyloxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkyloxycarbonyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylcarbonyl, or formyl; and further being optionally interrupted by -O-, -N($R^e$)-, -N($R^e$)-C(O)-O-, -O-C(O)-N($R^e$)-, -N($R^e$)-C(O)-N($R^f$)-, or -O-C(O)-O-; each of $R^e$ and $R^f$, independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, or haloalkyl;

$X^1$ is O or S; and

$X^2$ is -$OR^1$, -$SR^1$, -$NR^3$-$OR^1$, -$NR^3$-$SR^1$, -C(O)-$OR^1$, -$CHR^4$-$OR^1$, -N=N-C(O)-$N(R^3)_2$, or -O-$CHR^4$-O-C(O)-$R^5$, where each of $R^1$ and $R^2$, independently, is hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxylalkyl, haloalkyl, or a hydroxyl protecting group; $R^3$ is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, haloalkyl, or an amino protecting group; $R^4$ is hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxylalkyl, or haloalkyl; and $R^5$ is alkyl, hydroxylalkyl, or haloalkyl; ~~and provided that when L is a $C_{2-3}$ hydrocarbon containing no double bonds and $X^2$ is -$OR^1$, $Y^1$ is not a bond and $Y^2$ is not a bond;~~

or a salt thereof; and

determining whether the level of acetylated histones in the treated cells is higher than in untreated cells under the same conditions.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein $X^1$ is O.

3. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 1, wherein $X^1$ is S.

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein $X^2$ is -$OR^1$, -$NR^3$-$OR^1$, -C(O)-$OR^1$, -$CHR^4$-$OR^1$, or -O-$CHR^4$-O-C(O)-$R^5$.

5. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein $X^2$ is -$OR^1$, -$NR^3$-$OR^1$, -C(O)$OR^1$, or -O-$CHR^4$-O-C(O)-$R^5$.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein each of $Y^1$ and $Y^2$, independently, is -$CH_2$-, -O-, -N($R^c$)-, or a bond.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein each of $Y^1$ and $Y^2$, independently, is $-CH_2-$ or a bond.

8. **(Canceled)**

9. **(Canceled)**

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein L is an unsaturated hydrocarbon chain containing at least one double bond and no triple bond.

11. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 10, wherein L is an unsaturated $C_{4-8}$ hydrocarbon chain substituted with $C_{1-2}$ alkyl, $C_{1-2}$ alkoxy, hydroxyl, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-2}$ alkyl), or $-N(C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$.

12. **(Original)** The method of claim 10, wherein the double bond is in trans configuration.

13. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 1, wherein L is an unsaturated hydrocarbon chain containing at least one double bond and one triple bond.

14. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 13, wherein L is an unsaturated $C_{4-8}$ hydrocarbon chain substituted with $C_{1-2}$ alkyl, $C_{1-2}$ alkoxy, hydroxyl, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-2}$ alkyl), or $-N(C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$.

15. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 13, wherein the double bond is in trans configuration.

16. **(Canceled)**

17. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein A is phenyl~~, naphthyl, indanyl, or tetrahydronaphthyl~~.

18. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein A is phenyl optionally substituted with alkyl alkenyl, alkynyl, or alkoxy~~, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, or amino~~.

19. **(Canceled)**

20. **(Canceled)**

21. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 18, wherein L is an unsaturated $C_{4-8}$ hydrocarbon chain containing at least one double bond and no triple bond, said unsaturated hydrocarbon chain optionally substituted with $C_{1-2}$ alkyl, $C_{1-2}$ alkoxy, hydroxyl, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-2}$ alkyl), or $-N(C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$.

22. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 21, wherein $X^1$ is O; $X^2$ is $-OR^1$, $-NR^3-OR^1$, $-C(O)OR^1$, or $-O-CHR^4-O-C(O)-R^5$; and each of $Y^1$ and $Y^2$, independently, is $-CH_2-$, -O-, $-N(R^c)-$, or a bond.

23. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 18, wherein L is an unsaturated hydrocarbon chain containing at least one double bond and one triple bond, optionally substituted with $C_{1-2}$ alkyl, $C_{1-2}$ alkoxy, hydroxyl, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-2}$ alkyl), or $-N(C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$.

24. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 23, wherein $X^1$ is O; $X^2$ is $-OR^1$, $-NR^3-OR^1$, $-C(O)OR^1$, or $-O-CHR^4-O-C(O)-R^5$; and each of $Y^1$ and $Y^2$, independently, is $-CH_2-$, -O-, $-N(R^c)-$, or a bond.

Claims 25-32 **(Canceled)**

33. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 32, wherein A contains only double bonds.

34. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 33, wherein L is a saturated $C_{3-8}$ hydrocarbon chain optionally substituted with $C_{1-2}$ alkyl, $C_{1-2}$ alkoxy, hydroxyl, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-2}$ alkyl), or $-N(C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$.

35. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 34, wherein $X^1$ is O; $X^2$ is $-OR^1$, $-NR^3-OR^1$, $-C(O)OR^1$, or $-O-CHR^4-O-C(O)-R^5$; and each of $Y^1$ and $Y^2$, independently, is $-CH_2-$, -O-, $-N(R^c)-$, or a bond.

36. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 33, wherein L is an unsaturated $C_{4-8}$ hydrocarbon chain containing only double bonds, said unsaturated hydrocarbon chain optionally being substituted with $C_{1-2}$ alkyl, $C_{1-2}$ alkoxy, hydroxyl, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-2}$ alkyl), or $-N(C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$.

37. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 36, wherein $X^1$ is O; $X^2$ is $-OR^1$, $-NR^3-OR^1$, $-C(O)OR^1$, or $-O-CHR^4-O-C(O)-R^5$; and each of $Y^1$ and $Y^2$, independently, is $-CH_2-$, -O-, $-N(R^c)-$, or a bond.

38. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 33, wherein L is an unsaturated $C_{4-8}$ hydrocarbon chain containing at least one double bond and one triple bond, said unsaturated hydrocarbon chain optionally being substituted with $C_{1-2}$ alkyl, $C_{1-2}$ alkoxy, hydroxyl, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-2}$ alkyl), or $-N(C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$.

39. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 38, wherein $X^1$ is O; $X^2$ is $-OR^1$, $-NR^3-OR^1$, $-C(O)OR^1$, or $-O-CHR^4-O-C(O)-R^5$; and each of $Y^1$ and $Y^2$, independently, is $-CH_2-$, -O-, $-N(R^c)-$, or a bond.

40. **(Currently Amended)**The method of claim 1, wherein said compound is 5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoic acid, 3-methyl-5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoic acid, 4-methyl-5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoic acid, 4-chloro-5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoic acid, 5-(4-dimethylaminophenyl)-2,4-pentadienoic acid, ~~5-(2-furyl)-2,4-pentadienoic acid,~~ 5-phenyl-2-en-4-yn-pentanoic acid, 6-phenyl-3,5-hexadienoic acid, 7-phenyl-2,4,6-heptatrienoic acid, 8-phenyl-3,5,7-octatrienoic acid, cinnamoylhydroxamic acid, methyl-cinnamoylhydroxamic acid, ~~4-cyclohexanebutyroylhydroxamic acid, benzylthioglycoloylhydroxamic acid, 5-phenylpentanoylhydroxamic acid,~~ 5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoylhydroxamic acid, N-methyl-5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoylhydroxamic acid, 3-methyl-5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoylhydroxamic acid, 4-methyl-5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoyl hydroxamic acid, 4-chloro-5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoylhydroxamic acid, 5-(4-dimethylaminophenyl)-2,4-pentadienoylhydroxamic acid, 5-phenyl-2-en-4-yn-pentanoylhydroxamic acid, ~~5-(2-furyl)-2,4-pentadienoylhydroxamic acid, 6-phenylhexanoylhydroxamic acid, 6-phenyl-3,5-hexadienoylhydroxamic acid,~~ or N-methyl-6-

phenyl-3,5-hexadienoylhydroxamic acid~~, 7-phenylheptanoylhydroxamic acid, 7-phenyl-2,4,6-hepta-trienoylhydroxamic acid or 8-phenyloctanoylhydroxamic acid~~.

41. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein said compound is 5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoic acid, 8-phenyl-3,5,7-octatrienoic acid, ~~benzylthioglycoloylhydroxamic acid,~~ 5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoylhydroxamic acid,~~ 6-phenylhexanoylhydroxamic acid,~~ or 7-phenyl-2,4,6-hepta-trienoylhydroxamic acid~~, or 8-phenyloctanoylhydroxamic acid~~.

42. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the cells are treated with a compound of formula (I) in vivo.

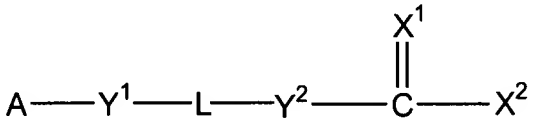
43. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 1, wherein the cells are treated with a compound of formula (I) in vitro.

44. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the cells being treated are cancerous.

45. **(Canceled)**

46. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the disorder is cancer~~, cystic fibrosis, or adrenoleukodystrophy~~.

47. **(Withdrawn)** A method of inhibiting histone deacetylase in cells comprising contacting the cells with an effective amount of a compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

A is phenyl optionally substituted with alkyl alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, or amino;

each of $Y^1$ and $Y^2$, independently, is $-CH_2-$, -O-, -S-, $-N(R^c)-$, or a bond; where $R^c$ is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, or haloalkyl;

L is a straight $C_{2-12}$ hydrocarbon chain optionally containing at least one double bond, at least one triple bond, or at least one double bond and one triple bond; said hydrocarbon chain being optionally substituted with $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{2-4}$ alkenyl, $C_{2-4}$ alkynyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, hydroxyl, halo, amino, nitro, cyano, $C_{3-5}$ cycloalkyl, 3-5 membered heterocycloalkyl, monocyclic aryl, 5-6 membered heteroaryl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylcarbonyloxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkyloxycarbonyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylcarbonyl, or formyl; and further being optionally interrupted by -O-, $-N(R^e)-$, $-N(R^e)-C(O)-O-$, $-O-C(O)-N(R^e)-$, $-N(R^e)-C(O)-N(R^f)-$, or -O-C(O)-O-; each of $R^e$ and $R^f$, independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, or haloalkyl;

$X^1$ is O or S; and

$X^2$ is $-OR^1$, $-SR^1$, $-NR^3-OR^1$, $-NR^3-SR^1$, $-C(O)-OR^1$, $-CHR^4-OR^1$, $-N=N-C(O)-N(R^3)_2$, or $-O-CHR^4-O-C(O)-R^5$; where each of $R^1$ and $R^2$, independently, is hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxylalkyl, haloalkyl, or a hydroxyl protecting group; $R^3$ is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, haloalkyl, or an amino protecting group; $R^4$ is hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxylalkyl, or haloalkyl; $R^5$ is alkyl, hydroxylalkyl, or haloalkyl; and provided that when L is a $C_{2-3}$ hydrocarbon containing no double bonds and $X^2$ is $-OR^1$, $Y^1$ is not a bond and $Y^2$ is not a bond;

or a salt thereof; and

determining whether the level of acetylated histones in the treated cells is higher than in untreated cells under the same conditions.

48. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 47, wherein L is a saturated $C_{3-8}$ hydrocarbon chain substituted with $C_{1-2}$ alkyl, $C_{1-2}$ alkoxy, hydroxyl, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-2}$ alkyl), or $-N(C_{1-2}$ alkyl)$_2$.

49. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 48, wherein $X^1$ is O; $X^2$ is $-OR^1$, $-NR^3-OR^1$, $-C(O)OR^1$, or $-O-CHR^4-O-C(O)-R^5$; and each of $Y^1$ and $Y^2$, independently, is $-CH_2-$, -O-, $-N(R^a)-$, or a bond.

50. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 47, wherein L is an unsaturated $C_{4-8}$ hydrocarbon chain containing only double bonds, said unsaturated hydrocarbon chain optionally substituted with $C_{1-2}$ alkyl, $C_{1-2}$ alkoxy, hydroxyl, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-2}$ alkyl), or $-N(C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$.

51. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 50, wherein $X^1$ is O; $X^2$ is $-OR^1$, $-NR^3-OR^1$, $-C(O)OR^1$, or $-O-CHR^4-O-C(O)-R^5$; and each of $Y^1$ and $Y^2$, independently, is $-CH_2-$, -O-, $-N(R^c)-$, or a bond.

52. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 47, wherein L is an unsaturated hydrocarbon chain containing at least one double bond and one triple bond, optionally substituted with $C_{1-2}$ alkyl, $C_{1-2}$ alkoxy, hydroxyl, $-NH_2$, $-NH(C_{1-2}$ alkyl), or $-N(C_{1-2}$ alkyl$)_2$.

53. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 53, wherein $X^1$ is O; $X^2$ is $-OR^1$, $-NR^3-OR^1$, $-C(O)OR^1$, or $-O-CHR^4-O-C(O)-R^5$; and each of $Y^1$ and $Y^2$, independently, is $-CH_2-$, -O-, $-N(R^c)-$, or a bond.

Claims 54-66 **(Canceled)**

67. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is 5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoic acid.

68. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is 3-methyl-5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoic acid.

69. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is 4-methyl-5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoic acid.

70. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is 4-chloro-5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoic acid.

71. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is 5-(4-dimethylaminophenyl)-2,4-pentadienoic acid.

72. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is 5-phenyl-2-en-4-yn-pentanoic acid.

73. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is 6-phenyl-3,5-hexadienoic acid.

74. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is 7-phenyl-2,4,6-heptatrienoic acid.

75. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is 8-phenyl-3,5,7-octatrienoic acid.

76. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is cinnamoylhydroxamic acid.

77. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is methyl-cinnamoylhydroxamic acid.

78. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is 5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoylhydroxamic acid.

79. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is N-methyl-5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoylhydroxamic acid.

80. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is 3-methyl-5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoylhydroxamic acid.

81. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is 4-methyl-5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoyl hydroxamic acid.

82. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is 4-chloro-5-phenyl-2,4-pentadienoylhydroxamic acid.

83. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is 5-(4-dimethylaminophenyl)-2,4-pentadienoylhydroxamic acid.

84. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is 5-phenyl-2-en-4-yn-pentanoylhydroxamic acid.

85. **(New)** The method of claim 40, wherein said compound is N-methyl-6-phenyl-3,5-hexadienoylhydroxamic acid.